

Open Interclub – 8 Teams

From March to September will be a complete round robin with 1 match every month. Those matches will be 28 boards with 14 boards against each pair in the opposing team.

October and November will be a 4 team Final and a 4 team Plate. Both months will be 3 matches of 9 boards against each of the other teams in their section.

The top qualifier after September will start the Final on 200 VPs
The Team in 5th will be leading the Plate on a score of 100 VPs

The starting positions in the Final and Plate of other teams will be based on how much they were behind the leader in their section. The first 10 VPs that they were behind will be kept the same, but anything over 10 VPs will only increase the deficit by one third of the value.

EXAMPLE: If the top qualifier finished September 4.7 VPs ahead of second then the team in second would start on 195.3 so that they are still 4.7 VPs behind. If the team in third place was 19 VPs behind the leader, then the first 10 VPs reduce their starting position to 190, but the other 9 VPs would only be calculated as 3 VPs. That team would start on 187.

The intention is that even the bottom qualifier should have a chance in whatever section they are playing, but that the top qualifier should have the opportunity to earn themselves a headstart. The formula is designed to make it difficult to get a headstart of much more than 10 VPs.

For a headstart of 20 VPs the leaders would have to be 40 VPs ahead, but then if they have achieved that they probably deserve a 20 VP headstart

Intermediate Interclub – 18 Teams

There are 9 months played in interclub from March to November. There will be 2 matches of 14 boards each month with 7 boards against each pair in the opposing team.

That format is enough for a complete round robin plus one more match.

Who the extra match is against will be set before November is played because it cannot be organised halfway through the final session. The extra match will be decided by the scores after October and it will be 1st v 2nd, 3rd v 4th, 5th v 6th, etc.

It is even possible that two teams might play twice on the final session. If your team is third after October and the only team you had not played by that stage was the team currently in fourth place, then you would play them twice on the final session. Once to complete the round robin and once as your extra match.

The last match is not a final, it is just an extra match. If you were seventh after the October session, then your extra match would be against the team in eighth place. If you had two big wins on the last session you could still end up at the top of the leaderboard and win the event. The competition would have to be very close for that to be even possible. After 16 rounds the field would usually be spread out too much for that to happen.

Junior Interclub – 12 Teams

There will be 2 matches of 12 boards each month with 6 boards against each pair in the opposing team.

There are 9 months from March to November. With 2 matches per session that is enough time to play a complete round robin (11 matches) and then play 7 teams again.

Because the draw needs to be calculated at the end of a session it will be done when 10 matches have been played after the July session.

6 of those replay matches will be the teams that are placed:

1, 4, 5, 8, 9 and 12 playing against the teams placed:

2, 3, 6, 7, 10 and 11.

That means that 6 of those replays will make up an average selection of teams. The other match will be 1v4, 2v3, 5v8, 6v7, 9v12 and 10v11

The last 7 matches will be scheduled so teams in contention will be more likely to play each other in October and November. For example, the team that was leading after July would be playing in November the teams that had been second and third after July. That is more likely to make an exciting finish to the competition, but it doesn't always work out that way. The leaderboard might have changed considerably compared to how it looked in July.